



JIM GIBBONS  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1263 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

SUSAN MARTINOVICH, P.E., *Director*

In Reply Refer to:

October 18, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: PS Docket No. 06-299

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation is charged with providing two way radio communications for State of Nevada Agencies such as: the Department of Public Safety, Attorney General's Office, Department of the Military, Department of Corrections, and other agencies.

On September 15, 2010, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") issued a Public Notice seeking comments on Petitions for Waiver to Deploy 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Networks.

On May 13, 2010, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Department, the Washoe County Regional Communications System, the Nevada Department of Transportation (representing the State of Nevada), and NV Energy, representing the State of Nevada 700 MHz Broadband Wireless Network (hereinafter "SONNet") consortium, respectfully requested that the FCC waive its 700 MHz public safety early deployment rules in order to enable the construction and operation of a 700 MHz interoperable public safety broadband network in the State of Nevada.

The State of Nevada has led the nation in collaborative efforts in the area of shared public/private resources in the formation of the Nevada Shared Radio System in 1995 that provides critical communications across the entire state. Principal stakeholders currently in this venture are the Nevada Department of Transportation, NV Energy and Washoe County. Users of the shared system come from law enforcement, fire service, regional and statewide transportation, parole and probation, state universities as well as a private statewide utility. The granting of private utility use of public safety spectrum is not a unique concept, as referenced in FCC file 7110-227, dated July 10, 1995 that authorized the use of public safety RF frequencies in the State by the statewide utility, as part of a statewide public safety network.

The requested waiver serves the public interest by allowing a statewide integrated wireless broadband data network consortium supporting applications for both its private and public partners. These applications would include mission critical public safety communications for day-to-day operational and incident response; ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) applications, such as real time traffic and incident monitoring; and, and other related utility data applications as may be determined at later date. As the integrated network evolves, many other applications certainly will evolve to gain even more functionality benefiting the partners and ultimately our citizens and taxpayers.

The FCC Notice encourages commentor's to address issues they consider to be material to the Bureau's consideration of such Petitions. . The SONNet consortium is a unique partnership of public sector and investor-owned utility interests in the state. Upon receiving the requested waivers, the consortium would be free to immediately begin collaborating on how to bring the benefits of interoperable 700 MHz broadband capabilities to users whose obligation it is to best serve the taxpayers and utility ratepayers in the State of Nevada.

Benefits to be shared through a unified and collaborating effort include "improved capabilities and efficiencies, such as data sharing, joint software platforms, and cost sharing". The Waiver Request points out that the "SONNet project has received very strong support across the entire state and will be an expansion of the existing cooperative agreements in place, including the Nevada Shared Radio System ("NSRS") and the Washoe County Regional Communications System ("WCRCS)". The NSRS and WCRCS have proven to be a very elegant, effective model that serves the most comprehensive interest of users as referenced above.

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation supports the plans of the SONNet consortium and believes it's efforts represent that the public will be best served if the waiver request is expeditiously granted to allow the consortium partners the ability begin collaborating on how to best leverage the resources and assets of the parties to deliver to the public and rate payer benefits of a 700 MHz interoperable public safety broadband network in the State of Nevada. In addition, other members of the NSRS have time sensitive technology and communications deployment plans and supporting legacy asset commitments that compliment the purposes of a statewide broadband network deployment and the SONNet consortium.

### **SUMMARY**

Thus:

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation: Supports the Request for Waiver filed by the SONNet consortium;

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation believes that the public will be served by expeditiously awarding the Request for Waiver;

Ratepayers of NV Energy and the public sector users of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada Shared Radio System and Washoe County Regional Communications System as well as other public entities in the State of Nevada will benefit by the grant of waiver to allow the commencement of joint collaboration;

And, in conclusion, due to the unique mix of state and local agencies and private-sector partners, the earlier the planning process begins will allow adequate time for the interested parties to effectively plan a procurement and utilization strategy that will result in maximum system benefits to the citizens of Nevada.

Thank you for your expeditious consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Chisel", with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert Chisel  
Assistant Director